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The Clifton Chronicles

December 2022 & January 2023

The **Clifton Chronicles** is published 11 times a year and distributed to each of the 1650 houses in Clifton. We are the longest continuously running village magazine in Bedfordshire (possibly in the country). The Chronicles is produced and distributed entirely by a friendly team of over 40 volunteers. If you want to help with this amazing local enterprise please get in touch or if you have any suggestions we would also like to hear from you. Our revenue comes primarily from: local businesses who advertise, donations from local clubs and societies who regularly contribute and grants from Parish Council and All Saints Church.

All contributions and information from clubs, societies and general community interest items are welcome, the editor reserves the right to make decisions on content. Please e-mail contributions to: chronicles@clifton-beds.co.uk

As always the Chronicles is available on line: www.clifton-beds.co.uk

Kathy Blackmore, Editor

Next edition: February 2023

copy by: 14th January

Email: chronicles@clifton-beds.co.uk

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Who's Who in Clifton p1

All Saints' Church	Rector	Revd Caren Topley , 8 Rectory Close, Clifton. rector4clifton@gmail.com	01462 615499
	Churchwardens	Pat Wisby , 51 Pedley Lane	816451
	Readers	Robin Welsford , 13 Pedley Lane Ruth Gray , 21 Fairground Way	811303 812820
	Organist & Choirmaster	Peter Maundrell , 24 Heron Close, Biggleswade	01767 314621
	PCC Treasurer	Philip Dawes , 58 Church Street	816074
	PCC Secretary	Pat Wisby , 51 Pedley Lane	816451
	Church Hall Bookings	Ruth and Kevin Gray 21 Fairground Way	812820
	Bell-ringing Cpt	Philippa Whittington 27 Purcell Way, Shefford	851816
	Mothers' Union	Betsy Gray , 18 Hitchin Lane, Clifton	629690
	Messy Church	Suzanne Stapleton , 811929; Ruth Gray 812820	

All Saints' Academy	Head-teacher	Miss Rebecca Byrne	628444
	School Governors	Chair: Philippa Whittington Vice-chairs: Jean Peacock Carol Weller	851816 812514 07557 949488
	School Bookings	School Office	628444
	PTA	Email: cliftonallsaintspta@gmail.com	

Elected Representatives	Parish Council Chairman	Steve Langton , 45 Church Street	07721 885672
	Clerk (Community Centre bookings)	Kerri Kilby parish.council@clifton-beds.co.uk	07547 129038
	MP	Nadine Dorries , nadine.dorries.mp@parliament.uk	
	Councillors Henlow, Arlesey, Henlow Camp & Stondon	Richard Wenham , 2 Jordan Close, Henlow SG16 6PH, Ian Dalgarno , 172 High Street, Arlesey SG15 6TB,	0300300 8563 735510

Who's Who in Clifton p2

Chronicles	Editor	Kathy Blackmore , Hawarden Cottage, 47 Church Street, Clifton	646371
	Advertising	Advertising year runs May to April chronicles@clifton-beds.co.uk	646371
	Distribution	John Good , Pedley Lane, Clifton	812596

Other village organisations	Biggleswade Gardening Club	Mr A Gray www.biggleswade.gardenclub.care4free.net	01767 221428
	Brownies	Email: firstcliftonbrownies@outlook.com www.girlguiding.org.uk	
	Clifton Good Neighbours		07817 614654
	Cricket Club	Chairman: Rob Davidson Email: cliftonbedscc@gmail.com V-Chair: Josh Scandrett : 07805 427129	07376 490434
	Friends All Saints Church	Keith Pledger , 2 Chapel Close k.pledger@ntlworld.com	629020
	Football Club	Jason Shacklock	816881
	Guides	www.girlguiding.org.uk	
	HATS Drama Group	Pete Winfield	07971 962411
	Langford Tennis Club	www.langfordtennisclub.org.uk Contact: Paul Metcalfe	700991
	Police Contact	The snr community officer: PS Adam Sugden, Based in Biggleswade	01234 842531
	Providence Baptist Church	cliftonpbchurch@gmail.com	
	Rainbows	girlguiding.org.uk	
	Residents Association	Bob Smith , Secretary 30 New Road	812336
	Scouts (All ages)	gsl@henlowcliftonscoutgroup.co.uk	
	Toddlers	clifontoddlers@gmail.com	
WI	Linda Patch	814517	
Woodlands	Pre-School, Breakfast & After School Clubs www.thewoodlandspreschool.co.uk thewoodlands1@btconnect.com	811486	

Dear Friends,

Happy Christmas! As we come up to Christmas we are reminded that Emmanuel, 'God is with us'. However, for some it has been an unpleasant year, one thing after another and it might seem trite to think of the joy of Christmas when so many are suffering. We might think what does God know about suffering and God might seem far away.



For me as a Christian, I find comfort in the first Christmas story where God becomes as one of us in human form as the baby Jesus.

What could be more vulnerable than a baby to become from being God Almighty to Jesus, God in human form? To be born to an unmarried mother at a time when this was unthinkable, to be born in a stable and placed in a makeshift crib the manger, to be born at a time of conflict when your country is occupied and run by a foreign power, then to be forced to leave your home and become a refugee. It's a starting point! God enters, becomes human and dwells among us. He chose to be human and understand our suffering.

So when we feel everything is beyond hope, remember that as Jesus grew up he suffered on the cross for us, died and rose again on the third day so that there can be hope through pain and suffering. Death is not the end. Christmas is the start of God's journey with us to a place of hope.

As we come to the end of this year may we be look with hope for a brighter future across our communities and our world in 2023.

With every Blessing for the New Year. Revd Caren

Joint Benefice Services 2023

New Year Day 1st January

10am with Holy Communion at All Saints Church **Southill.**

29th January 2023

10am at All Saints Church, **Clifton.**

All Saints Church, Clifton

From the Registers



Funeral followed by burial in the churchyard

26th October	Jean Wyer
1st November	Rosa Klempter
11th November	Brian Padgett

Burial of ashes

4th November	Eleanor Rothwell
--------------	------------------

Crematorium

10th November	Kevin Kilby
---------------	-------------

All Saints' Church Clifton Services



Sundays:

11.00 am Parish Communion 1st, 3rd
Family Communion, 2nd
Morning Prayer, 4th

10.30 am Messy Church 4th Sunday (Church Hall)

6.30 pm Evensong, 3rd Sunday

10.00 am Benefice Service 5th Sunday at Clifton, Haynes or Southill
(see **opposite** for details)

Mondays:

Toddler Church, 2nd and 4th Mondays, 2.00 pm

Wednesdays:

10.00 am Holy Communion or Morning Prayer

For details of church services see: <https://www.clifton-beds.co.uk/>



Clifton Chronicles

Don't forget our next edition is for:

February 2023

We would love to help you publicise your events copy
deadline: **14th January 2023**

Email: chronicles@clifton-beds.co.uk

Clifton Poppy Appeal 2022



I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has helped with this year's Poppy Appeal. Thank you to all the wonderful people who maned our stall outside Tesco, to Iris and Barbara who had their stall at Clifton Park, to All Saints Lower School, to Tesco, Baxter's, Clifton Garage, Clifton Cuisine, the Admiral and the Golden Lion pubs, and to everyone who has donated to this worthwhile charity. I'll post the total amount we raised in February's issue once all the monies have been counted.



Thank you all so much - you're all amazing.

Denise Panton

Craft & Chat—Knit & Natter

Monday Mornings—10.00—12.00

We are a friendly bunch and you would be welcome.

We meet in church and you don't have to knit or do craft, just come along for the coffee and chat.

Making A Knitvity Set for Toddler Church accompanied by a lot of nattering!



CLIFTON GOOD NEIGHBOUR SCHEME

CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR

2022 has been a pretty good year for the Good Neighbour Scheme. We ran a successful recruitment campaign for both drivers and telephone holders. But we could always do with more as requests for our help have increased recently. Quarterly figures over the year indicate that in terms of transport (taking folk to appointments, shopping and visiting hospital etc) averages around 60. The volunteers have done a sterling job. The Tea & Chat sessions have seen a significant increase in attendees and on the last two occasions visitors have numbered 20; double that for earlier in the year. The programme for these sessions is much more varied than previously with games, quizzes and a sing along. The change of name to the Clifton Good Neighbour Scheme (CGNS) was approved at the recent AGM. The new name reflecting more accurately what we do.

At this time of the year our usual reminder to make sure Christmas presents are kept out of view as they can prove tempting to some. And please do make sure that any electrical decorations are still safe and remember to switch them off before leaving home or going to bed.

NEED OUR HELP?

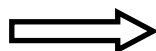
Remember we are here if you need our help just call.....

..... **07817 614654**

and to assist us in meeting requests please try to give at least 24 hours notice of your requirements.

All that remains from all of us here at the CGNS is to wish you, your family and friends a a very happy Christmas and New Year

Tea and Chat see overleaf



Tea & Chat on Wednesdays

Church Hall 2.00—4.00

- * 14th December
- * 11th January 2023
- * 25th January
- * 8th February



On 2nd and 4th Wednesdays each month
apart from 28th December 2022

Church Hall, Stanford Lane

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GOLDEN LION GOLF SOCIETY

Our October and final competition of the season was played at **Abbey Hills Golf Club** for the **Martin/Swain Trophy**. The weather was comfortably warm and the course was in good condition. This was reflected by some decent scoring. Our winners were:

1 st with 36 pts	Ian Martin
2 nd with 33 pts OCB	Alan Mason
3 rd with 33 pts OCB	Les Small
4 th with 33 pts OCB	Kevin Gray

Alun Evans playing as a guest scored an excellent 39 points.

Nearest the Pin – Allan Cawdell
Longest Drive – Alun Evans

Our next competition will be in March, 2023

If you are interested in joining us, please contact, **Harvey Price** on 01462 812781 or **John Wall** on 01462 814097.



Clifton All Saints Academy



I know I wrote an article for the Chronicles this time last year inviting anyone interested in becoming a governor at the school to contact me and I would like to thank those people who came forward at that time.

There have been changes in the Articles of Association for Academies and our Governors are now called Trustees. Governing boards meet regularly to look at the big picture and the school's long-term goals. They set the culture and values of the school, responding to opportunities and challenges. Governors and trustees work closely with the headteacher, supporting them and challenging them. Governors typically serve at schools that are maintained by the local authority whereas trustees serve on an academy trust board.

They are responsible for:

- developing a vision and strategy for the school
- overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent
- holding the school leader to account to ensure that every pupil has the best possible education
- engaging with pupils, staff, parents and the school community to understand their views

Activities can include:

- attending governing board meetings: these normally take place around six times a year and may be held outside school hours
- looking at information and evidence on the school's progress and discussing with school leaders
- visiting the school to see plans working in practice, and listening to the views of staff, pupils and parents
- selecting and appointing a headteacher following the resignation of the current headteacher
- making decisions about issues such as pupil exclusions and staff disciplinary matters
- undertaking induction training and ongoing development

We are now looking for some additional trustees. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact the Chair of the Trust, Philippa Whittington, at: chair@cliftonallsaintsacademy.co.uk.



This term has gone by incredibly quickly and new students to our academy have settled in really well! We have achieved so much in the last seven weeks: every class in Year 9 completed their library induction; Year 11 Geography students undertook field work in Cambridge; pantomime auditions took place (oh no they didn't!); Sixth Form students started their global citizen seminars; the netball fundraiser was a tremendous success; extra-curricular participation has rocketed, and our Year 8 Open Evenings were bigger and better than ever. Members of our choir also opened the BEST governors conference to great acclaim.

Following the successful Year 8 open evenings earlier this term, the PE department held our very first Rugby Open Evening for prospective players interested in joining our academy. The event was well attended and Year 8 students from across the county got to hear from staff, students and professional players (ex SWA student Tom Litchfield and our own staff member Mr Arthur) before touring our amazing facilities.

Unfortunately, this half term we have seen an increase in uniform which does not conform to the school's uniform expectations. Can I remind everyone that if you purchase skirts or trousers from providers other than our agreed provider, then you need to have the item approved by the pastoral team and purchase a school badge. In these difficult times, please can I remind parents/carers that we have a range of hardly worn, second hand uniform (some of which still has labels!) which once cleaned, we donate to anyone who asks, so if you need any uniform then please contact Rob Graves, Associate Principal.

Shortly, Year 11 and Year 13 have their mock examinations, which provide students with a valuable opportunity to assess where they are at this point in the course, learn which topics they need to work on and improve their understanding and explore misconceptions. I wish them the best of luck in their preparation for these.

Finally, on Thursday Professor Hubbard and I led a very successful session at MK:U with all the Sixth Form leads from across the county. This was part of a project funded by the Connolly Foundation and includes almost every Sixth Form in Bedfordshire, along with universities such as Oxford, Cambridge, Bedford, Cranfield and Hertfordshire. The aim of the project is to increase the aspirations of Sixth Form students in Bedfordshire and to share good practice.

Nick Martin, Principal



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Clifton Walking Group



The Clifton Walking Group is a friendly bunch of local people who like to walk in the local area and chat along the way. We go out most days for about an hour, and once a month do a longer route of about 6 to 8 miles. We also arrange social events over the year which has been rather limited of late, but as restrictions are lifted we will organise more of these.

If anyone is interested in joining us please contact Suzanne on:
ionssuzanne@gmail.com or 07933 709006

Toddler Church



MONDAYS 2pm-3pm

12th December, 9th & 23rd January

Numbers are limited, please book with Revd Caren on 078851 76079

Messy Church, 22nd January



Christmas

Church Hall, 10:30 am

- ✓ Craft activities for all the family
- ✓ Stories and songs
- ✓ Hot lunch
- ✓ No fixed cost- donations welcome
- ✓ No need to book

Come and join the fun!

Always on 4th Sunday of the month

Light Up Clifton 2022

Saturday 3rd December

4.30 near The Admiral



Light Up Clifton is just around the corner (and, just by the duckpond!)

Games for the children, Santa's grotto, lots of Christmas stalls, giant raffle with fabulous prizes, brownies, ice-cream and hot beverages.

For the grown ups, (deep down, are there any at this time of year?): The Admiral will be selling burgers, bratwurst and mulled wine as well as a great selection of drinks.

If that wasn't enough, we will have live music from the pupils of All Saints and Samuel Whitbread Academies, interspersed with a singer singing songs of the Christmas variety - courtesy of The Admiral.

The event will start at 4.30pm and the tree lights, (with our traditional countdown!), will be switched on at 5.00pm. We plan to finish around 7.30pm.

The Games (for the young ones – or the young at heart!):

- ★ Battleship – hit the target to win - a lollipop.
- ★ Successfully traverse the highly charged wire and win - a lollipop.
- ★ Score 200 points on the bagatelle to win – a lollipop.
- ★ Guess a butterfly or robot to win - a lollipop.
- ★ Knock down the cans on Tin Can Alley and win – you guessed it -a lollipop!
- ★ Come first in the clock-chutty race and win – yet another lollipop.
- ★ Get the ball down the hole – and a lollipop will be yours. Yay!
- ★ Knock down the skittles to win a **mystery** prize. (OK, it's a lollipop - if there are any left)



Note. The more observant among you will have noticed a lollipop theme to the prizes. There is a reason for this. Basically, we're cheapskates. Sorry! Oh, and the games are free to enter, so there's that as well.

Don't forget, it's between The Admiral and the duckpond on Saturday 3rd December from 4.30pm. Come along and have a great time. We look forward to seeing you.



Christingle

Sunday 4th December

@ 4.00

All Saints Church



Christingle is a joyful celebration that brings families and communities together to share the light of Jesus and spread a message of hope whilst also raising money for the Children's Society's excellent work.

The
Children's
Society

No child
should feel
alone

Everyone is welcome to
come along and share the
light, joy and hope.



SNOWMAN BEETLE DRIVE

Wednesday 7th December

2.30 - 4.30 pm

All Saints Church, Clifton

Tickets: £5 each including refreshments,
available at the door.

In aid of:
**TIBBS DEMENTIA FOUNDATION
BEDFORD**





Carol Singing with Tea, Cake & Entertainment

Saturday 10th December

from 3.30 pm

All Saints Church & Churchyard

Tea and cake served in church from 3.30 pm with
Christmas entertainment

Carol singing in the churchyard 4.15

It was a lovely occasion last year
and we plan to sing a little later
so it's even more atmospheric!

We will have some lanterns for
the children but do bring torches
if you have them.



The Darkest Night Service

Wednesday 21st December

at 4.00 pm

All Saints Church, Clifton

This service is on the shortest day and is for all those who have been bereaved this year or are in need of comfort for any loss or worry.



There will be lovely traditional carols, prayers for healing and restorative readings to comfort the soul.



Come and light a candle to remember a loved one and write a message on a star for them to be kept in our prayers.

Do come along to the service which will be followed by refreshments and chat.





woodlands

pre-school

We are now half way through the Autumn term and have started to prepare for Christmas. Children have already begun practising for our concert 'Jesus' Christmas Party' which they will perform on Friday 16th December. They have been busy making their Christmas pictures which will be made into cards, wrapping paper and gift tags for parents to buy to raise funds for Woodlands.

We recently raised £48.65 from our Happy School Bag collection by donating unwanted clothes etc. All children benefit from all monies raised with purchases of new resources and toys.

On Friday 18th November we will be helping to raise money for Children in Need by asking our children and staff to come to preschool in their PJ's! We will be asking for a donation and have lots of fun activities planned.



Recently we held our Annual General Meeting, committee members, staff and parents took part. We discussed the recent changes Woodlands has seen this last year including the end of our Breakfast and After School Club, which finished in July 2022.

We would like to say a huge thank you to our amazing Chairperson Melanie and Secretary Lola who are stepping down from their roles. Woodlands is a committee run charity and without the generosity of parents who join our committee, we wouldn't be here. We would like to welcome the new parents who are joining our committee. We look forward to another successful year ahead.

We would also like to say a double congratulations to our staff member Becky who has just welcomed twins to the world!

Woodlands is recruiting!

We are looking for new staff to join our dedicated team in January 2022. If you or someone you know may be interested, please go to My New Term to find our advert.

Clifton WI



theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

At our November meeting we were celebrating the 100th Birthday of Clifton WI. It was a really super event, we were graced with the presence of our District Chairman Sally and also a long time friend of Clifton, Dot Wigg.

Prosecco and soft drinks were served by the committee along with an afternoon tea, followed by trifle. Iris, our Secretary was asked to cut the Birthday Cake. Iris was later presented with a flower arrangement in recognition of her many years of service. It was great to have both her and Pat Kemp back with us after recent illnesses.



DECEMBER 7th Meeting is our last one of the year. We have entertainment plus mince pies with our cuppa, served by your committee, and a Christmas Raffle.

JANUARY 4th, we are holding a Sociable Games afternoon with our usual raffle. Our tea ladies will be Pat Pollendine, Pauline Livesey and Louie Mullen.



The Committee would like to wish all our Members and Friends a Happy Christmas and Great New Year.

Lesley Burton 231657

The Yew Tree Haircut Fund

We have been granted permission to reduce the height by 2m, of the 8 tallest yew trees in the front Churchyard. This will open up the view of our lovely church, tower and clock from Church Street.



Each tree will cost £180 and All Saints has currently received donations to cover the cost of 3 trees.

If you would like to make a contribution, please email:
Revd Caren rector4clifton@gmail.com

Thank You



To the kind young lady who handed my wallet in to the staff of Tesco Express a sincere thank you, it was a great relief.

Joyce Marchant

11 Clifton Park SG17 5SJ

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Judy and Paul Lanham thank their many friends for the support and prayers they have had and continue to have because of Judy's recent disability and Paul's (fortunately mild) stroke. They always welcome phone calls but if visiting please advise Paul in advance.



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Would you like to help ring the bells for the Coronation on Saturday 6 May next year? We are looking for new or returning ringers so that all the bells in churches throughout the country can be rung in celebration. You don't need to be particularly musical but should be able to climb stairs to the ringing room and be reasonably co-ordinated.



Children from Yr 5 should be able to learn (we will need parent's permission) and we also teach adults.

Interested? Why not come to one of our practices on a Friday night from 7.30pm and see what it's all about. If Friday isn't convenient, **then please contact the tower captain** Philippa Whittington at pw48@btinternet.com for more information



Saturday 18th February 2023 East Beds Model Railway Society Annual Exhibition

Stratton School, Biggleswade, SG18 8JB

10.00am – 4.30pm

15 layouts plus full trade and society support
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Free parking—Light refreshments available all day
Adults £7.00, Seniors £6.00, Children £3, Family (2+2) £17

For more information please contact the show organiser at: organiser@ebmrs.org.uk
or phone 01626 864942
or contact our secretary at:
secretary@ebmrs.org.uk



Crime Statistics—October

MALICIOUS COMMUNICATIONS

02/10/2022 Undisclosed

12/10/2022 Undisclosed

OTHER THEFT

02/10/2022 Shefford Road

SEXUAL

02/10/2022 Undisclosed

PUBLIC FEAR ALARM OR DISTRESS

04/10/2022 Church Street

22/10/2022 Bilberry Road

28/10/2022 Bilberry Road

THEFT FROM A MOTOR VEHICLE

04/10/2022 Yew Tree Walk

10/10/2022 Yew Tree Walk

14/10/2022 New Road

31/10/2022 Bilberry Road

CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO A VEHICLE

08/10/2022 Herberts Meadow

HARASSMENT

08/10/2022 Undisclosed

22/10/2022 Undisclosed

ASSAULT WITHOUT INJURY

15/10/2022 Broad Street

21/10/2022 Broad Street

23/10/2022 Bilberry Road

MAKING OFF WITHOUT PAYMENT

17/10/2022 Broad Street

STALKING

21/10/2022 Undisclosed

THEFT OR UNAUTH TAKING OF A PEDAL CYCLE

27/10/2022 Lime Tree Road



Clifton Planning Applications Update

Central Beds Decisions to 12th November 2022



CB/22/04277/FULL – 3rd November – 4, Clifton House Gardens, SG17 5FR. Erection of single storey side extension. **Consultation Period.**

CB/22/03881/FULL – 24th October – Riverside, Stanford Lane SG17. Erection of garage/workshop building. **Consultation Period.**

CB/22/03753/FULL – 14th October – Community Hall, SG17 5HY. Installation of solar panels to roof areas. **Consultation Period.**

CB/22/03917/FULL – 6th October – 4, Clifton House Gardens SG17 5FR. Erection of oak framed garage. **Consultation Period.**

CB/22/03825/FULL – 29th September – Railway Steamer SG17 5AH. Demolition of existing building. Erection of single retail unit with front parking. **Awaiting Decision.**

CB/22/0662/FULL – 21st September – 2, Pedley lane SG17 5EH. Existing single garage enlarge to double. **Awaiting Decision.**

CB/22/03528/FULL – 13th September – 4, Miles Drive SG17 5HS. Front, rear and infill single storey extension. **Decided.**

CB/22/03405/FULL – 24th August – 5, Rectory Close SG17 5EL. Relocation of front door and front bay. **Decided.**

CB/22/03127/FULL – 2nd August - 57, Brickle Place SG17 5HL. 2 storey rear extension. **Awaiting Decision.**

CB/22/01488/FULL – 18th May – land north of Stockbridge Road. Erection of 16 dwellings with access from Stockbridge Road. **Awaiting Decision.**

CB/21/03664/FULL – 9 August 2021 – 3a & 3b Earle Close. Retention Of 2nos attached dwellings previously as home offices. **Dismissed.**





Samuel Whitbread Academy

OPPORTUNITY • ACHIEVEMENT • EXCELLENCE

Samuel Whitbread Academy

During the pandemic we joined with Robert Bloomfield and Shefford Lower School to hold a joint online remembrance service. The event was incredibly moving and brought together over 3000 students and staff, to hear readings, poems and closing with the last post played by one of our Sixth Form students on the trumpet. The feedback and comments from last year's event were so positive and heart-warming, that we held the service online once again this year, streamed live to classrooms across Shefford/Clifton. Remembrance day is a special time for all schools, but for our three schools it is even more important, as we have many military families from the two local bases.



Over the course of this week our students have crafted individual poppies during tutor time. The poppies have been collated and arranged by each tutor group to create a remembrance poppy wreath that were displayed during our Remembrance Service and later around the academy.

Our SWA arts and crafts staff crocheted individual poppies for each staff member to be worn over the course of the week. Staff donated to The Poppy Appeal and discussed with students its symbolism, which we feel embodies many of our school values.

Our Year 9 students were tasked with writing a poem for Remembrance Day during their recent Engaging Minds lesson. Our staff had the tough decision to select the top three poems. They were super impressed with the quality, volume and effort from the year group. A huge well done to William J.K who won the overall competition, and runners up Lilly M and Barnabas K (which we will try to include at least one poem in February).

This year serves to commemorate 40 years since The Falklands War. Year 11 student Charlie has written the following short piece:

What was The Falklands War?

The Falklands War was a conflict between Britain and Argentina when, on April 2nd 1982, Argentina illegally invaded and annexed the British overseas territory of the Falkland Islands. Despite negotiations through the UN, Argentina refused to withdraw from the islands. In response the Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, sent a task force of 127 ships and 4,000 troops to recapture the islands. Ultimately, Britain succeeded; however, this short conflict was bloody conflict: in 2 months and 12 days, 256 British soldiers were killed and 5 ships were sunk.

Lieutenant Colonel Herbert Jones VC was the commanding officer of 2nd Battalion (2 PARA) of the Parachute Regiment from 1960 to 1982. He led his battalion through The Falklands from the first landings at San Carlos Bay until his death at The Battle of Goose Green.

On the 28th May 1982 after the capture of Darwin Ridge, his Battalion was ordered to capture the settlement of Goose Green. Unknown to him there were 1,200 Argentine soldiers entrenched around the settlement outnumbering his 690 strong battalion. During the assault, Jones' unit was pinned down by heavy fire from nearby Argentine trenches. Noticing that his battalion was suffering and casualties were mounting he disregarded his own safety and led a charge encouraging his men to move forward whilst firing his submachine gun. He was killed during this act but the Argentinian position surrendered shortly afterwards. For his actions, he was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross, Britain's highest award for bravery. The next day, Goose Green was liberated. H Jones was the highest ranking officer to be killed in action during the conflict, but this act, without a doubt, helped in the liberation of Goose Green. He showed great leadership, courage and commitment to his troops, sacrificing his life attempting to save the lives of his men.

Nick Martin, Principal





ENGLISH
HERITAGE

Wrest Park

Wrest Park is a 93 acre estate situated in Silsoe, some 8 miles and 15 minutes' drive from Clifton. The estate is run by English Heritage, a national charity that cares for over 400 historic buildings, monuments and sites - from world-famous prehistoric sites like Stonehenge, grand medieval castles like Dover and Tintagel, to Roman forts, Hadrian's Wall and even a Cold War bunker.

A house has stood on the Wrest Park estate since 1633 and the present French style mansion was completed in 1839. Its grounds and gardens were worked on by Capability Brown and contain a building designed by one of English most prestigious architects, Thomas Archer. It is a truly magnificent place to visit and Wrest welcomed over 160.000 visitors last year.



Like most English Heritage sites, Wrest is very dependent on volunteers who bring the buildings and grounds to life for visitors, and our annual recruitment drive has now started.

We need volunteers to act as stewards in the gardens and on the estate, staff our busy second hand book shop, help with conservation in our repository, run our plant and garden sales area, meet and greet our visitors, help maintain the beautiful ornamental gardens and act as guides in the Mansion staterooms.

Full training is given and travel expenses from your home to the park (and return) are paid. A uniform is also provided, and you will be working with a friendly, supportive and dedicated volunteer team. Once established as a volunteer you will also receive free English Heritage membership and discount in our shops and cafes.



If you would like the idea and want to have an informal discussion or need more information, please check out the English Heritage Website at:

www.english-heritage.org.uk

Contact the Volunteer Manager at:

michael.child@english-heritage.org.uk

or call 01525-860000 ext 3880.



Pantomime, Pantomime!

HATS present their annual family panto:



The New Adventures of Robinson Crusoe

At Meppershall Village Hall on

Fri 27, Sat 28 Jan, Fri 3, Sat 4 Feb at 7.30pm with
matinees on Sat 28, Sun 29 Jan, Sat 4 Feb at 2.30pm.

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from www.ticketsource.co.uk/hats-drama

or phone 0333 666 3366 [booking fees apply]

More on Facebook: @HATSDramaMeppershall

Synopsis:

Sir Percival Pennypinch is sailing the *Jellied Eel* to foreign parts with all his treasure to find a hiding place safe from the taxman. For his crew, he enlists Robinson Crusoe, his sweetheart Polly Perkins, his mother Mrs Crusoe, and two layabouts, Hale and Hearty.

Needless to say they get shipwrecked, due to the intervention of the wicked spirit of the sea, Davy Jones, and they land on the island of Migrainia, ruled by Queen Paracetamol and her lovely daughter, Princess Codine. Davy Jones is after Sir Percy's treasure but The Coral Fairy is there to assist Robinson in thwarting him. It's quite an adventure but all ends happily.

There's lots of fun on the way so why not come along and join in?

CLIFTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clifton Community Centre

We are fortunate in Clifton to have a modern, spacious, well-equipped community centre with floodlit parking for 60 cars. For information on the facilities available, and to see just how easy and inexpensive it is to use this hall see:

[www.clifton-beds.co.uk/halls for hire/Community Centre](http://www.clifton-beds.co.uk/halls%20for%20hire/Community%20Centre)

To check availability and make a booking, please contact:

parish-council@clifton-beds.co.uk

Kerri Kilby 07547 129038 or

Bob Anderson on 07546 239784

Booking forms and conditions of hire can be downloaded from the website.



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*The 10.30 a.m. Sunday morning service will continue to be held at the Community Centre, Whiston Crescent, Clifton.

Mondays (term time)

Mums & Tots 10 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. at the Church

Explorers 5.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. (for Reception to Year 4) at Church

Wednesdays (term time)

Coffeepot 12.00 noon - 1.30 pm at the Church

Fridays (term time)

Mums & Tots 10 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. at the Church

Website: www.cliftonpbchurch.org.uk

Contact: cliftonpbchurch@gmail.com

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Deacon	Rev Peter Hyde	711702
Parish Secretary	Rose Boulton	811547

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St Francis 9.00 am 5.15 pm

Saturday Service

St Francis 11.00 am

Shefford Methodist Church

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Bookings: Chris & Peter 815069

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9.30 am Worship for all, plus Junior Church, crèche facilities & refreshments afterwards.

Other activities see the notice-board & www.sheffordmethodist.org.uk

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Contact: 01462-731072

Sunday Services: 10.30 am

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Letters indicate the pages on the yellow sheets

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